



FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES
For Our Children's Future

Family Support Services, Inc. Annual Report 2004-2005

201 South 69th Street, Upper Darby, PA 19082 Phone 610-352-7610 WWW.FSSINC.ORG

Our Mission

Family Support Services' mission is to support family life, and prepare children for success in school and to help them develop life skills. Our programs strive to prevent child abuse, neglect and developmental delays, and to improve parenting skills.

FSS stresses education for parents and children, and provides social work support to families and specialized therapy to children.

Our Goals

- To strengthen family life;
- To prevent child abuse and neglect, and to reduce the effects of past abuse or neglect;
- To prevent cognitive, physical and emotional developmental delays in children, and to reduce the effects of existing developmental delays.

Our Philosophy

Family Support Services uses education and social support to identify and treat the needs of children from birth to age five. Our youngest citizens are unable to speak for themselves, therefore we aim to develop programs which speak to their needs. We also believe that teaching parents how to be loving, supporting and knowledgeable parents will help break the cycle of abuse. Education is a powerful tool which underlies each and every one of our FSS programs.

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Executive Director's Report —

Virginia C. Peckham, PhD

This past year has been a period of technological growth. Thanks to added computers, updated software, and the implementation of agency-wide email, our internal and external communications have been transformed. Family Support Services (FSS) also launched its first website, redesigned our logo to better communicate our mission, and implemented technology infrastructure upgrades at each of our ten program sites. These changes not only resulted in better outreach, but also made the Extended Day enrollment process more convenient to parents because forms can now be downloaded from the web. Our new email system improved staff information sharing, and has been a pleasure to use.

FSS's focus remains the same; we serve families with young children through parenting support, early intervention and extended day programs. There were about 1300 substantiated new cases of child abuse/neglect in Philadelphia this year, and about 7000 children, birth to five years old, identified with a 25% or greater developmental delay.

Overall, FSS served about 1530 children during the year. 580 children were enrolled in our Radnor and Haverford Township Extended Day programs; 551 children received Early Intervention Services in our Philadelphia-based Penn Early Childhood program and Fairmount Center; and 173 Families with about 400 children were helped through our Child Welfare programs.

Grant revenue fell due to the completion of large William Penn Foundation and Child Care Resources grants, while revenue rose due to increased enrollment in School based Extended Day programs.

FSS was awarded a new contract for an

important Child Welfare prevention program, called SAFE. This home visiting program provides home-based social work support to families at risk for poor health outcomes. The term "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" really applies to families slipping over the edge medically.

By identifying and securing treatment for unvaccinated children, premature infants, or children coping with physical or even cognitive delays in development, our social workers save the city the much higher costs associated with medical neglect. They also give families the hope they need to cope with daunting problems like inadequate housing, poor nutrition, lack of furnishings, clothing, or even lack of parenting know-how. Parents are taught to be advocates for their children's health needs, and emerge from the SAFE program physically, emotionally, and often financially better off.

Program Supervisor, Amy Benedetti-Ashlock, says, "we reach families before circumstances get out of control, and because we work with such young children we can intervene at crucial ages with maximum long-term impact. Improved beginnings definitely equal more healthy outcomes."

While preventive Child Welfare programs, like SAFE, reduce the likelihood of later neglect or abuse, our Family School remains a unique and intensive, center-based, Philadelphia child neglect and abuse prevention and treatment program that handles families with children 0-5 years old as a family unit. Every aspect of parenting and child health is addressed during six months to one year of classes. Children attend enriching baby, toddler, and preschool educational programs in addition to sharing activities, and nutritious family meals (meals are funded by

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the Esther Gowen Hood Trust, a Mellon Mid-Atlantic Charitable Trust), with their parents during the day.

FSS's Penn Early Childhood and Fairmount programs handle about 7 to 8% of Philadelphia's Early Intervention caseload for children under six years of age. Ten years ago many of the children we work with would have been placed in stand-alone special education programs. Today, because of the services we provide in homes, classrooms, daycares and head start programs, children can remain with their peers. And, by addressing their delays so early, we can even ensure that some children exit the early intervention system in time to enjoy unassisted Kindergarten experiences.

We help children with physical or cognitive delays remain in mainstream preschools, and in the past year have extended our programming to cover six additional Head Start program sites. Technology has enhanced the program's billing and reporting capabilities, and a newly created social worker support position has helped families

better address their children's food, housing, clothing and medical needs.

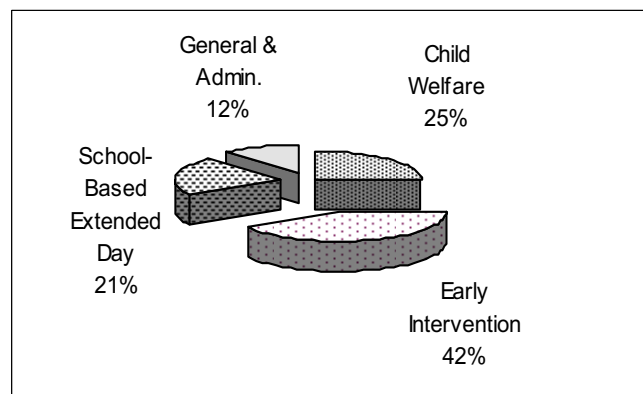
We also helped Radnor and Haverford township families by offering companion kindergarten classes, and before and after school supervision for children through grade five. FSS provides the all important companion programming that permits parents to go to work knowing their children are attending fun and interesting educational and recreational programs.

Overall, self sufficiency is one of the keys to parenting success, and empowering parents is perhaps the most important aspect of FSS's work in all programs. Our low staff turnover, low administrative overhead, and reputation for quality remain points of pride, as does the 95% peer review approval rating granted The Penn Early Childhood Program during its recent audit. Ongoing work with trauma informed treatment models, parent-child attachment, and an implementation of new obesity/health-related curriculum continues. As we look ahead to 2006, new accounting and child welfare caseload management software purchases are planned, as is our 30th anniversary celebration on April 23rd.

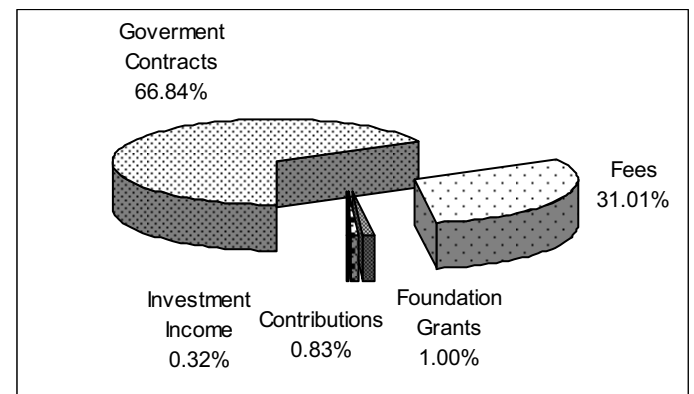
**Financial Data— Statement of Audited Revenue & Expenses
for years ending June 30th 2003, 2004, and 2005.**

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Revenues & Other Support			
Government Contracts	\$2,996,197	\$2,984,052	\$2,698,938
School-based Child Care Fees	1,390,374	1,221,343	1,164,497
Grants	44,750	136,700	256,496
Contributions	37,407	55,590	39,243
Investment Income	14,258	15,481	6,554
TOTAL	\$4,482,986	4,413,166	4,165,728
Expenses By Program			
School-based Child Care	\$ 930,600	\$ 879,854	\$ 830,238
Child Welfare	1,101,315	1,104,891	989,459
Early Intervention	1,827,782	1,740,247	1,708,663
General and Administrative	525,635	508,227	508,670
TOTAL	4,385,332	4,233,219	4,037,030
Loss on Disposal of Property & Equipment	0	0	12,566
Surplus/Deficit Revenue Over Expenses	97,654	179,947	116,132

2004-2005 Expenses by program



2004-2005 Revenues and other support



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For our website & technology upgrades
Barbara and Ted Aronson

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201 South 69th Street,
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Phone: 610-352-7610

Fax: 610-352-7617

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